

## 2008 Spring Hikes in California State Parks

Spring is the perfect time to take a hike in a California State Park. Spring flowers are in bloom.

It's important to wear proper shoes fit for hiking, wear a hat for sun protection, and bring water. And always check the weather forecast before your hike.

Here are some ideas for great spring hikes:

### Southern California

**Malibu Creek State Park** (four miles south of Highway 101 on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road) offers a getaway from the city for people to explore rugged terrain, spectacular gorges, and serene rolling hills of oak woodlands. Visitors can enjoy a short and easy loop trail at the Ann Skagar All-Access Trail, or take a stroll down the Back Country Trails on the High Road to the visitor center (one mile round trip) open most weekends. For a longer hike, continue past Century Lake and see where the popular TV series *M\*A\*S\*H* was filmed (1.3 miles from the Visitor Center.) Over 30 miles of trails allow a glimpse into the park's history. Malibu Creek State Park once housed Crag's Country Club in the 1920's and later served as a backdrop for many films including *How Green Was My Valley* and *Planet of the Apes*. For more information, call the park (818) 880-0367.

### Central California

**Caswell Memorial State Park** (six miles west of Ripon on Austin Road) offers visitors a leisurely ramble along the Stanislaus River. Various trail loops allow walks from .5 to 2.5 miles over relatively level terrain. The stately Valley Oaks that tower over the trails once sheltered the native Yokut people, and welcomed the first European explorers with a familiar sight similar to the mighty white oaks of their homelands. A vehicle entrance fee is required. Call (209) 599-3810 for more information.

### Northern California

**Richardson Grove State Park** (seven miles south of Garberville on Highway 101) offers spectacular hikes in old growth redwood and fir forests. The park's best example is the Durphy Creek Trail loop. The hike is about four miles long and takes hikers along Durphy Creek into beautiful redwood and fir forests, ending with views of the Eel River Canyon. For more information call the park at (707) 247-3318.

Visit California State Parks on line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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